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Arms Deal With Soviet Calls For Open Skies

Understatement of the week comes from Allen W. Dulles, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, in his saying that even if the United States and the Soviet Union agree on a completely effective disarmament treaty, there will still be need for intelligence "as a necessary check on Soviet veracity."

The history of Soviet duplicity in the matter of treaty agreements is too recent and too dark to think for one moment the Kremlin will honor this one — unless, and that's a big question, it is to their definite advantage — or possibly mutual advantage in which they hope with time to gain a greater edge.

Nor is it likely the talks at Geneva will produce an arms inspection agreement — the stumbling block to all disarmament negotiations since the nuclear age began. And Dulles is fearful that an exchange of arms

information "would mean we'd put ourselves in their hands."

Historically, there is good reason to be wary of the Soviet negotiators.

They rejected President Eisenhower's open skies plan. That would have permitted both countries to see from the air what the other was doing.

They want us to hand them a blueprint of our missile situation and in turn get one the Russians may say is actually their own. But how could we know it is correct unless the open skies idea is accepted?

We are negotiating with a wily enemy intent on wresting advantage from the deal without measuring up fully to his pledged responsibility.

Mr. Dulles makes a powerful point that we must keep wary while seeking open skies agreement over any other inspection agreement that may be developed at Geneva. Anything else depends on words, not sight.